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CIA Files Sought on Ties With Student Association

By MATT YANCEY,

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Student Association asked a federal court Thursday to force the CIA to release files on the spy agency's covert relationship with the student group from 1947 through 1967.

In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court here, the organization formerly known as the U.S. National Student Association said the CIA had not complied with a Freedom of Information Act request for the files that first was

submitted in 1977.

The student group and the CIA severed their relationship in August 1967 after it was disclosed in a magazine article. As part of that agreement, the spy agency gave the association the CIA-owned building in Washington that was housing the group's headquarters at the time.

Kate Hall, a CIA spokeswoman, said the agency had not been served with the suit and did not have any information about it. But she said the CIA has not rejected the association's request for the files.

"There's been a long negotiating process," Miss Hall said. "Their request is in queue, waiting its turn to be serviced."

David L. Sobel, the student association's attorney, accused the agency of dragging its feet on the 4 1/2 -year-old request, saying the CIA has yet to release any material concerning the 20-year relationship between the two groups.

Sobel, however, noted that a 1967 memo from former CIA Director Richard Helms to Walt Rostow, then a White House aide, on the student organization's severed ties with the agency and its activities was released as part of a civil suit against Helms in 1977.

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